

I CLAIM:

1. A method of enabling to emulate streaming of a file over a data network to a client, the
5 method comprising:

partitioning the file into multiple segments;
enabling the client to download a first one of the segments for playing out;
enabling the client to download a next one of the segments while playing out a current
one of the segments;
10 enabling the client to buffer the next segment while playing out the current segment; and
enabling the client to start playing out the buffered next segment upon completion of the
playing out of the current segment.

15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the partitioning is determined by information about the client.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the partitioning is determined by information about the
network.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the file comprises an audio file.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the file comprises a video file.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the partitioning comprises adding respective tags to
respective ones of the segments.

25 7. An electronic file comprising information content partitioned into multiple segments that are
separately downloadable over a data network, the file comprising control information for
enabling to play out a first one of the segments upon downloading, enabling to buffer a second
one of the segments while the first segment is being played out and enabling a seamless transition
30 between the playing out of the first and the second segments.

8. The file of claim 7, wherein a respective one of the multiple segments comprises respective control information.

9. The file of claim 7 implemented as a linked list.

10. The file of claim 7 comprising the control information in XML format.

11. A device for play-out information content received over a data network from a server, wherein:

- the information content comprises multiple segments;
- the device is capable of downloading a first one of the segments from the server for playing out;
- the device is capable of downloading a next one of the segments while playing out a current one of the segments;
- the device is capable of buffering the next segment while playing out the current segment; and
- the device is capable of starting to play out the buffered next segment upon completion of the playing out of the current segment.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein:

- the content information is accessible through control information provided to the device; and
- the device is capable of interpreting the control information to retrieve the segments from the server for sequential play-out.

13. The device of claim 12, wherein:

- the control information comprises an XML format;
- the device has an XML parser; and
- the device has an XML interpreter.

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